

From The Book of Exodus. THE ABSOLUTISM OF HUMAN REASON, PART ONE

The Israelites in Egypt conceived of the Exodus as an *axiomatic* or inevitable failure (5:21; 14:11; 15:24; 16:3). The only way they could have come to the conclusion that Moses' mission was doomed to fail and could not work would have been if they saw time as a linear structure, like dominos lined up in a row, one event causing another event and so on.

But the power of God, if it is real, will not allow for linear predictions which lead to such belief in axiomatic failure. We know that the Israelites had seen all the miracles God did in Egypt. But they must have considered them too discrete, too limited to be trusted (7:14-12:32).

The book of Exodus corrects any notion that time has a *linear structure*. This book tells us that God steps into human circumstance at any point, in any way, and at any time. Time and history, therefore, are purely subject to the Lord.

The concept of a linear structure of time is the foundation for making predictions of axiomatic failure. We should remember this when the doctor presents us with a bleak diagnosis, when the job is lost, when apparent intractable circumstance casts its shadow. Faith in the power of God contradicts the idea of the linear structure of time. Moses came to shake up the structure.